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California's Natural Wildlands Legacy

Bay Delta

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Surrounding San Francisco Bay, the Bay Delta region represents some of the most productive and diverse landscapes within the state of California. World-renowned areas, such as the Napa and Russian River valleys, top the nation's wine industry. Silicon Valley is the mecca for the high tech industry. The city of San Francisco is one of America's top five tourist destinations. For its small size, the high standard of living of the Bay Delta region makes it one of the most sought after and densely populated centers in California.

Yet, within this highly developed region exist some of the most unique, primitive, and recreational open space landscapes. None of the region's public land destinations are further than a three hour drive from San Francisco. The most noted is BLM's Cache Creek Management Area, known for both its hiking and white water rafting activities. When recreational escapes involve off-highway vehicle trails, developed destinations at Cow Mountain and Knoxville are designed for this purpose. Besides recreation, the region's rugged oak savannah landscapes provide habitat for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, tule elk, black bears, mountain lions and many other species.

BLM is actively pursuing opportunities to enhance and accommodate the Bay Delta region's need for open space and outdoor recreation. Acquisition of the former Payne and Knoxville ranches further protect the region from future growth and exploitation. The work of grassroots public and private partnerships such as the Blue Ridge/ Berryessa Coalition aid land mangement agencies by seamlessly seeking support for maintaining the region's biodiversity and quality of life.

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Expanding Cache Creek

The 50,000 acre Cache Creek Management Area increased by 13,000 acres with the acquisition of the Payne Ranch in 1999. The final part of the three-phase acquisition, completed in 2000, culminates 10 years of planning by the BLM. Cache Creek is home to a significant wintering population of bald eagles, a herd of tule elk, and a rich variety of wildlife. BLM's partner in the acquisition is the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Members of the foundation also dedicate numerous hours of volunteer time to improve the former ranch.

Sharing Cow Mountain

The Cow Mountain Recreation Area attracts outdoor enthusiasts who ride motorcycles, drive sport utility vehicles, ride horseback, hunt, hike, and camp. All this occurs in areas specifically designated for these uses. BLM and its partners have completed innovative erosion control measures to keep sediment out of area creeks, and out of Clear Lake.

A Hiker's Paradise

Hikers of varying abilities come to the region to escape the pressures of urban life. More than 35 miles of trails await visitors to the Cache Creek Management Area, and the public will have the chance to help develop even more opportunities when they work with the BLM on the management plan for Payne Ranch. Nearly 20 miles of trails beckon hikers to North Cow Mountain, while adventure seekers wanting a more primitive experience head to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area.

Wildflower displays dazzle hikers in the region.

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build, and yet leave a landscape as it was before."

Robert Lynd

Your lands....*Your legacy!*

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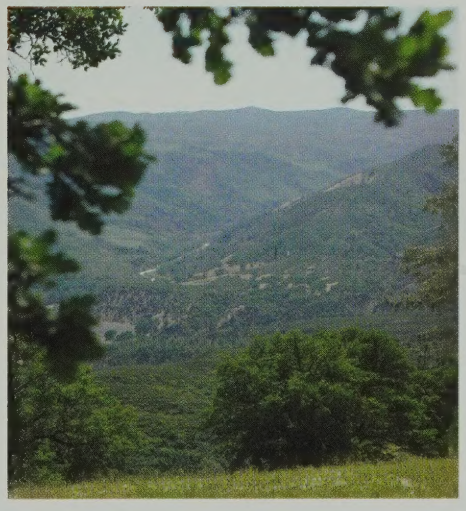
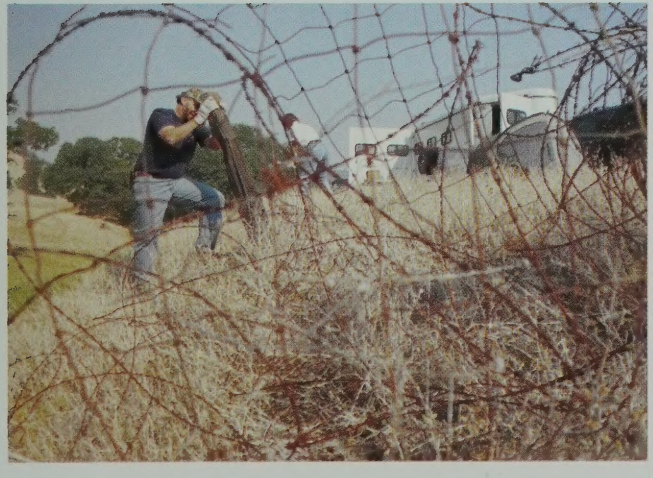
Oak woodlands and grasslands are home to a herd of tule elk and other California wildlife



Cache Creek, winding through a canyon near Payne Ranch, provides rich wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities



Partners from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have joined the BLM on several clean-up efforts on the Payne Ranch and in the Cache Creek Management Area

Goals for the Bay Delta

Provide a natural environment and recreational trails network for use and enjoyment by Bay Area and other regional residents and visitors.

Partnerships

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

California Department of Fish and Game

California Assn. of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs

California Wilderness Coalition

Los Altos Dirt Bikers

Blue Ridge/Berryessa Coalition

Bay Ridge Trails

Bay Area Open Space Council

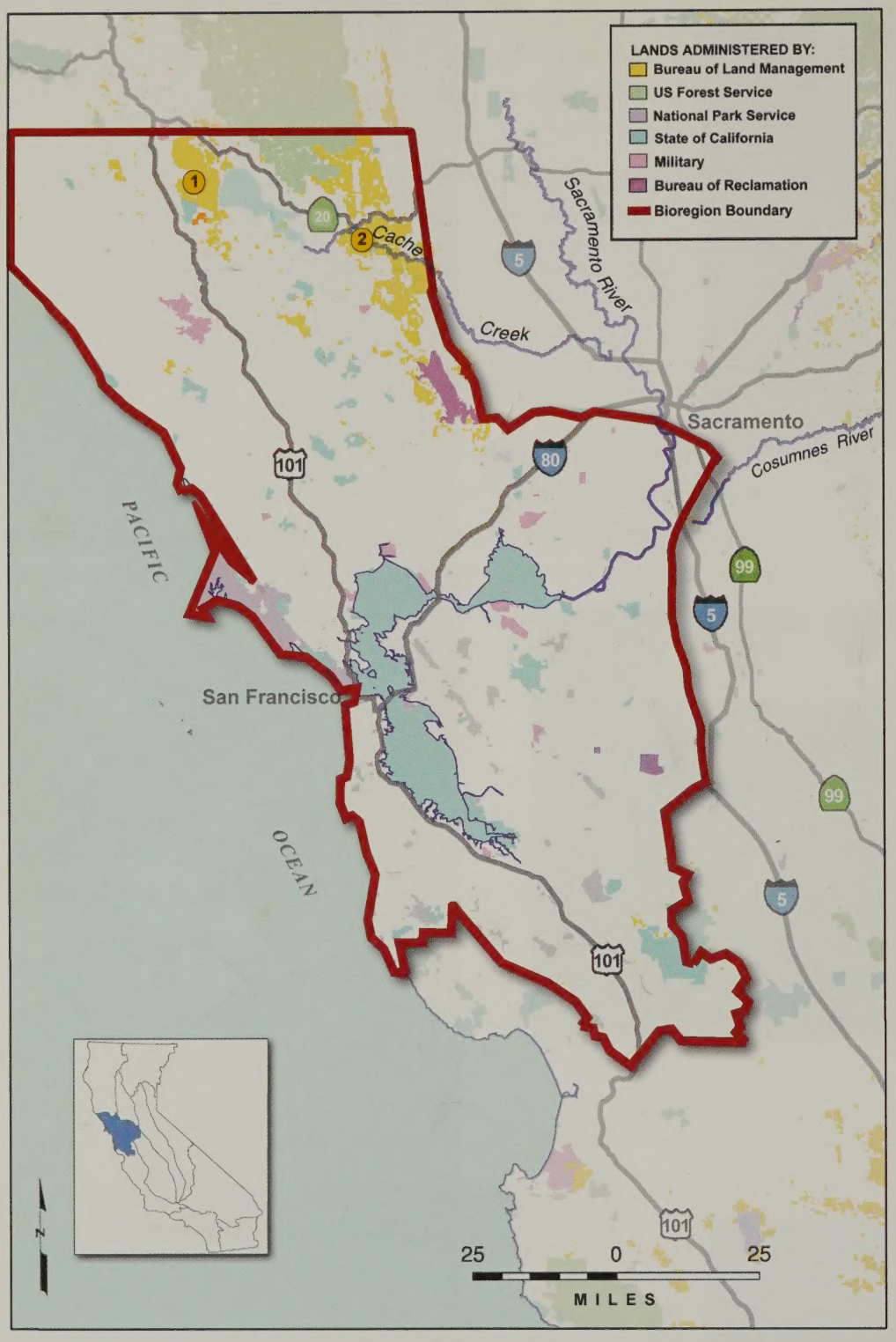
Homestake Mining Corporation

University of California, Davis

Back Country Horsemen

Key Assets of the Bay Delta

- Cache Creek Management Area
- Cow Mountain Recreation Area
- Critical Wildlife Habitat
- Open Space



1 Cow Mountain Recreation Area

2 Cache Creek Management Area

Bay Delta

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